

What kind of health care are we giving our kids in this bill?

- No one—including the President—has argued against reauthorizing the program to help kids that **really** need it.
- Along with Senator Lott and others, I cosponsored and voted to responsibly reauthorize SCHIP back in July—to help poor kids. Let me emphasize **kids**.
- That proposal was fully offset—no budget gimmicks or new taxes. That bill makes sure everyone that's covered now stays covered.
- Unfortunately, the Democratic Majority decided to reject that responsible proposal and take hostage a program for poor kids to advance their single-payer agenda.
- The Democrats' proposal tripled the size of the program from what it is today, and used budget gimmicks and new taxes to “pay for” it.
- The President has said that he vetoed the SCHIP bill that the Democrats sent to him because he views it as a back door to adopting a single-payers system. I happen to agree with him.

- Some claim that this debate really isn't about advancing socialized medicine, but their past statements reveal otherwise.
- “We’re the only country in the industrialized world that does not have universal coverage. I think the Children’s Health Insurance Program is another step to move toward universal coverage.” *Senator Max Baucus, PBS NewsHour, May 28, 2007*
- This SCHIP expansion proposal isn’t a new strategy in the socialized medicine crusade. Hillary Clinton proposed starting with kids to achieve socialized medicine back in 1993.¹
- Some say America is behind the rest of the world in health care—that we’re the only major industrialized nation without universal coverage.
- People who think that should visit the systems of those other countries. Canadian Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin commented on her own country’s system in a 2005 ruling saying: “access to a waiting list is not access to healthcare.”
- Measuring a health care system by how well it serves its sick citizens, American medicine excels.
- For leukemia, the American survival rate is 50% better than the European rate. Esophageal carcinoma

¹ “Kids First” backup plan to implementing Hillary Health Care, as devised by the Clinton Health Care Task Force. The memo found in the National Archives states, “Part I, Kids First is really a precursor to the new system.”

survival rates in Europe are HALF what they are in the United States. The survival rate for prostate cancer is 81% here, and only half that in England.²

- Access to cancer treatment became a major national crisis in Britain when patients had to wait a year from diagnosis to chemotherapy. The British government now is spending a fortune to reduce that waiting time to three months by 2010.³
- More than 1.5 million Ontarians can't find family physicians. Health officials in Nova Scotia actually resorted to a lottery to determine who'd get a doctor's appointment.⁴
- We're already starting to see restricted access in this country's Medicaid program—nearly half of all doctors have limited the number Medicaid patients they take.⁵
- As we look at ways to get everyone in this country access to health care, we should do so in a way that's truly American and secures choice and access.
- When we debated this bill in July, I proposed an amendment to use Federal dollars to keep children in private insurance with premium assistance.

² David Gratzner, Investor's Business Daily:

<http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=270338135202343>

³ Galen Institute: <http://www.galen.org/healthabroad.asp?docID=950>

⁴ David Gratzner, Investor's Business Daily:

<http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=270338135202343>

⁵ *Note to Medicaid Patients: The Doctor Won't See You.* The Wall Street Journal; July 19, 2007

- If this debate is really about getting more kids covered, then why did 62 Members of this body vote against that amendment? It tells me that they think the government can do a better job making health care decisions than parents can.
- Make no mistake, the SCHIP bill this body sent to the President was about expanding government-run health care not about the quality of health care and the future that we are giving to our kids.

What does that bill say about the financial future of our kids?

- Congress is set to raise the federal debt limit to more than \$9 trillion. This will mark the sixth time since 1997 that the debt limit has been increased.
- Over the past 10 years, the SCHIP program has spent \$40 billion in federal funding. The bill this body sent the President will cost taxpayers **\$121.5 billion over the next 10 years.**⁶
- Democrats forget that while they expand SCHIP, they can't even pay for the programs that ALREADY exist.

⁶ Congressional Budget Office

- The estimated unfunded liability of Medicare is **\$34.2 trillion** over the next 75 years.⁷
- To pay off Medicare's long-term unfunded liabilities would require an increase in the payroll tax from today's 2.9 percent to a projected 13.4 percent.
- Is that really the future that we want to give our kids?

This bill is just one more example of Washington mismanagement of the money of hardworking Americans.

- Only in Washington would money for low-income children be spent on adults, children from wealthy families, and children who **ALREADY** have private insurance.
- The bill the President vetoed would continue to **allow adults to be covered**. In 2012, up to 780,000 adults will still be on the program (CBO).
- The President rightly vetoed the bill because it allowed funds to be spent on some families **making \$83,000 a year**—enough to have to pay the Alternative Minimum Tax.
- This bill takes kids away from private coverage that they **ALREADY** have with their families and forces

⁷ 2007 Social Security and Medicare Trustee's Report

them into a government program—**crowd out**. The crowd out in the new eligibility groups is one for one.

- While the Democrats tout that 4.4 million new children will get covered under SCHIP, it's important to realize a million of those kids were **already** covered under Medicaid and a million and a half kids **already** had private insurance.⁸

Washington budget gimmicks that cheat kids out of a sound financial future

- This bill is another example of **Washington accounting**—with budget gimmicks and new taxes.
- This reminds me of an irresponsible teenager who buys a car with no money down and then thinks there won't be any payments due later. **Credit card politics** will hurt America's children and the American people shouldn't be fooled.
- It's bad policy to pay for an expanding government program with a declining revenue stream. This bill disguises what would otherwise be the biggest violation of Pay-Go so far this year—a Democrat campaign principle.

⁸ Congressional Budget Office

- We know that increasing the tobacco tax will cause tobacco consumption to plummet. Paying for this bill would require 22 million NEW smokers over the next 10 years.⁹
- Since we know that won't happen, Congress will need to fund that program at \$41 billion from 2013-2017—that means RAISING taxes—or dropping millions of children off healthcare in 2013.
- I didn't come to Washington to take money away from hardworking Americans and put more dollars into the hands of Washington bureaucrats.

Taking kids' healthcare money to pay for earmarks and sweetheart deals

- We've got an earmark to let the state of **New York** expand its program to 400% of FPL and New Jersey to 350% of FPL.
- There's a special provision in this bill that gives new Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) money to Hawaii and Tennessee.
- According to CBO, the bill provides a **\$1.2 billion earmark to the State of Michigan** for its pension issues.

⁹ Study by the Heritage Foundation

- Section 614 provides a specific earmark for Merced and Ventura Counties in **California**.
- According to CBO, Section 618 of the bill provides \$400,000 in additional Medicaid payments to Memphis Regional Medical Center.
- Washington's spending habits and earmarking will destroy our children's future. It's egregious that it's happening on a bill that is supposed to be about children.

We've got other options

- Senator Lott introduced an honest reauthorization of the SCHIP program to help **low-income KIDS**—not adults or wealthy kids in New York.
- I understand we've got more work to do to find a compromise, but if the Democrats can't swallow an honest program reauthorization then we should pass a clean 18-month extension.
- Kids deserve the stability of knowing they can get their next vaccination or see their pediatrician at the next check up—instead of having that stability threatened with political posturing.

- I commend the President for his veto—he saw the bill for what its agenda truly is.